Iranian Offer to Exporting LNG

*25. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation comprising the officials of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) visited Iran recently to discuss the Iranian offer to export liquified natural gas (LNG);

(b) whether the Indian team also made any study of Iran's offer to export LNG and setting up facilities involving massive costs; and

(c) if so, what are their findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SH. T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A delegation comprising officials of the Ministry of petroleum and Natural Gas and Gas Authority of India Limited visited Iran in June, 1996 to discuss the Iran-India natural gas pipeline project. In the course of the discussions, the Iranian side mentioned that the feasibility of setting up an LNG project in Iran was under examination. The Iranian side did not make any concrete offer for the supply of LNG to India.

Loans and concessions to tribals and Harijans under IRDP

*26. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loans and concessions have been given to the tribals and harijans under the Integrated Rural Development Programme; and

(b) if so, the details of such loans and concessions and the extent thereof granted in 1994-95, 1995-96 and so far in 1996-97 in Madhya Pradesh, indicating the districts covered by the Programme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) and (b) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) assistance is given in the form of subsidy by the Government and loans by the banks to families living below the poverty line (BPL). The target group of beneficiaries consists of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, small and marginal farmers, rural artisans, etc. It is stipulated that 50% of the coverage under IRDP should be for Scheduled Tribes and the flow of funds should be commensurate with this coverage. The ceiling amount for subsidy to SC/ST category is Rs. 6000 or 50 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less. During 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97, the amount of loan and subsidy disbursed to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe categrories in Madhya Pradesh is given in the enclosed statement *(See* below) Since 1980-81, all the blocks and districts of Madhya Pradesh, are being covered under IRDP.

Statement

Coverage of SC/ST Families under IRDP in Madhya Pradesh during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97

Particulars	1994-95	1995-96 (Provisional)	1996-97 (Sept. 96)
SCHEDULEDTRIBES			
Physcial Coverage (Nos.)	72236	69801	9002
Physical Coverage *(%)*	34.30	33.13	36.07
Subsidy Disbursed (Rs. Lakh)	2872.99	3642.83	N.A.
Credit Disbursed (Rs. Lakh)	3684.58	5372.25	N.A.
Per Family Subsidy (Rs.)	3997	5219	N.A.
Per Family Credit (Rs.)	5101	7697	N.A.
Per Family Investment (Rs.)	9078	12915	N.A.
SCHEDULD CASTE			
Physicial Coverage (Nos.)	47263	52025	4495
Physical Coverage (%)	22.44	24.69	18.01
Subsidy Disbursed (Rs. in Lakh)	1891.78	2164.13	N.A.
Credit Disbursed (Rs. in Lakh)	2477.09	4295.53	N.A.
Per Family Subsidy (Rs.)	4003	4160	N.A.
Per Family Credit (Rs.)	5241	8257	N.A.
Per Family Investment (Rs.)	9244	12416	N.A.